

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2208

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6012

STADIS//////////

FOR LANDE, NEA/PAB FROM CONSTABLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PK, US

SUBJECT: SHIP VISITS

1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED REFTEL WHICH CONCERNS CINCPACFLT'S ONE YEAR PROJECTION FOR USN SHIP VISITS TO INDIAN OCEAN PORTS. THIS FORECAST IS A DECIDED IMPROVEMENT FROM THE PAST PRACTICE OF LOOKING AT THE VISITS ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS AND IN ISOLATION FROM ANY BROADER FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.

2. CINCPACFLT HAS SENT ALL CONCERNED EMBASSIES THE VISIT PROJECTIONS AND HAS ASKED FOR OUR COMMENTS. I AM SENDING A MESSAGE BACK TO ADMIRAL WEISNER, INFOING ADMIRAL HAYWARD AT CINCPACFLT, AND SUGGESTING, IN APPROPRIATE POLITE LANGUAGE, THAT WE TAKE THIS COMMENDABLE BEGINNING ONE STEP FURTHER. I HAVE RECOMMENDED TO THEM THAT ONCE CINCPACFLT COMPLETES ITS YEARLY PROJECTION, IT SEND IT TO STATE AND DOD AS WELL AS THE EMBASSIES CONCERNED. THE EMBASSIES CAN THEN SEND THEIR COMMENTS TO WASHINGTON, IN ADDITION TO HAWAII. STATE, DOD, NSC AND ANY OTHERS INVOLVED COULD THEN DEVISE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON SHIP VISITS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN PROTS WHILE CONSIDERING THE VISITS AS PART OF OUR OVERALL INDIAN OCEAN POLICY. OUR POLICY AND INTERESTS IN THE AREA WILL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06012 101414Z

OBVIOUSLY BENEFIT MORE FROM A SERIOUS ANNUAL REVIEW IN WASHINGTON OF INDIAN OCEAN SHIP VISITS-RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALLY AS IS DONE NOW-IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR BROADER POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CONSIDERATIONS THAN DEPENDING ON WHAT MAY BE ARBITRARY DECISIONS BY CINCPACFLT.

3. SINCE ADMIRAL WEISNER IS SENSITIVE ABOUT INITIALLY DISCUSS-

ING ISSUES WHICH INVOLVE HIS COMMAND WITH OTHER ADDRESSEES, I HAVE SENT MY RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIM AND HAYWARD ONLY, AND HE DOES NOT KNOW I AM ALSO CONTACTING YOU. IF YOU AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD NOW TAKE THIS ADDITIONAL STEP AND CENTRALIZE THE YEARLY PORT VISIT PROJECTION DECISIONS IN WASHINGTON WHERE STATE AND DOD CAN TAKE A CRACK AT THEM, PERHAPS YOU CAN MAKE THE RIGHT APPROACHES BOTH IN STATE AND WITH YOUR FRIENDS IN THE PENTAGON. THE FACT CINCPACFLT WAS MAKING A YEARLY PROJECTION IS WIDELY KNOWN, SO YOUR INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT WILL NOT SEEM STRANGE. CINCPAC AND CINCPACFLT ARE GOING TO BE VERY HESITANT ABOUT SURRENDERING TO WASHINGTON ANY OF THEIR AUTHORITY ON SHIP VISIT SCHEDULING, SO THIS COULD WELL BE A DIFFICULT BUREAUCRATIC BATTLE. LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THIS PROPOSAL.

4. CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC QUESTION YOU RAISED ABOUT THE BOWEN VISIT IN SEPTEMBER, WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE SHIP SPENDING TWELVE CONSECUTIVE DAYS AT PIER SIDE. WE HAVE CONSEQUENTLY RECOMMENDED TO CINCPACFLT, IN THE SAME MESSAGE WHERE WE COMMENTED ON THEIR FORECAST, THAT WE FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE WITH THE BOWEN AS WE DID WITH THE INGRAM WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO SPEND TWO WEEKS AT PIER SIDE. ON THE BASIS OF OUR SUGGESTION, THIS WAS CHANGED TO ONE WEEK AT PIER SIDE AND ONE WEEK AT ANCHOR. WE THEREFORE RECOMMENDED TO CINCPACFLT THAT THE BOWEN SPEND SEVEN DAYS AT PIER SIDE AND FIVE DAYS AT ANCHOR. THIS WOULD REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF TIME AT PIER SIDE FOR THE QUARTER FOR USN SHIPS FROM 25 TO 20 - WHICH WE THINK IS MANAGEABLE. WE HAVE ALSO MADE TO CINCPACFLT THE POINT YOU MENTION IN PARA FOUR REFTEL - THAT CHANGING POLITICAL CONDITIONS CAN ALWAYS AFFECT SHIP VISIT PLANS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 06012 101414Z

5. IF THE BOWEN VISIT CAN BE CHANGED TO REFLECT OUR SUGGESTION, WE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH THE BOWEN/SELLERS VISIT SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT IN OUR SUGGESTION ON THE BOWEN, ALTHOUGH I EXPECT NO PROBLEMS WITH CINCPACFLT. THE NAVY HAS SO FAR BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE. BEST REGARDS. CONSTABLE

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